

# NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RONALD J. TENPAS  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

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*Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700*

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***For Immediate Release***

**September 24, 2004**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 10, 2004, **MICHAEL R. PULLIAM**, age 32, of Florence, Alabama, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. PULLIAM, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, was sentenced to 151 months' imprisonment, 4 years supervised release, and was fined \$200.

The investigation established that from at least January 2003, through August 5, 2003, PULLIAM was involved with others in the manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine in Jackson and Williamson Counties. The investigation further established that PULLIAM and the others were manufacturing their own anhydrous ammonia to use during their methamphetamine cooks. The methamphetamine that was produced was distributed and used by PULLIAM and the others. On August 5, 2003, a vehicle occupied by PULLIAM was stopped by Murphysboro Police Officers. A search of the vehicle revealed: methamphetamine, lithium batteries, starter fluid, an air tank containing anhydrous ammonia, pseudoephedrine pills, drug scales and syringes. PULLIAM, who had numerous prior felony convictions, received an enhanced sentence based on his classification as a Career Offender.

The investigation was conducted by the Murphysboro Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in

the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.